

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claim 1. (original) A variable gain amplifier, comprising:

- an amplifying stage for generating an output voltage according to a differential input voltage; and
- 5 a gain controlling stage for outputting a gain controlling voltage to determine a voltage gain of the amplifying stage according to a first controlling voltage and a second controlling voltage, such that the voltage gain is inversely proportional to a simple exponential function, the value of the simple exponential function being determined by the difference between the first controlling voltage and the
- 10 second controlling voltage.

- Claim 2. (currently amended) The variable gain amplifier of claim 1, wherein the denominator of the voltage gain of the amplifying stage ~~is can be~~ expressed as  $(K1 + \exp(K2 \times Vy))$ , both K1 and K2 are substantially constants, and Vy is the gain
- 15 controlling voltage.

- Claim 3. (currently amended) The variable gain amplifier of claim 2, wherein the gain controlling voltage ~~is can be~~ expressed in the form of the difference of the first and the second controlling voltages.
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- Claim 4. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 1, wherein the gain controlling stage comprises:
- a transconductance unit for generating a first current and a second current according to the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage, wherein the
- 25 ratio between the first current and the second current is determined by the difference between the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage;

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

a current transforming unit coupled to the transconductance unit for generating a  
third current corresponding to the first current, and a fourth current  
corresponding to the second current; and  
an outputting unit coupled to the current transforming unit for generating the gain  
controlling voltage according to the third current and the fourth current;  
wherein the value of the gain controlling voltage is determined by the difference  
between the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage.

Claim 5. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 4, wherein the relationship  
between the first current, the second current, the first controlling voltage, and the  
second controlling voltage is:  $I1 / I2 = \exp(K \times (V1 - V2))$ ; where I1 is the first  
current, I2 is the second current, V1 is the first controlling voltage, and V2 is the  
second controlling voltage.

Claim 6. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 5, wherein the value of the third  
current is substantially the same as that of the first current, and the value of the  
fourth current is substantially the same as that of the second current.

Claim 7. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 5, wherein the gain controlling  
voltage is proportional to  $\ln(I1/I2 - K3)$  and K3 is a constant.

Claim 8. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 4, wherein the transconductance  
unit comprises:  
a first transistor coupled to the first controlling voltage;  
a second transistor coupled to the second controlling voltage; and  
a first bias current source coupled to the first transistor and the second transistor for  
providing a first bias current;  
wherein the first transistor outputs the first current according to the first controlling

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

voltage and the first bias current, and the second transistor outputs the second current according to the second controlling voltage and the first bias current.

Claim 9. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 4, wherein the outputting unit  
5 comprises:

- a third transistor, wherein the current of the third transistor corresponds to the fourth current;
  - a fourth transistor; and
  - a second bias current source coupled to the third transistor and the fourth transistor  
10 for providing a second bias current, wherein the second bias current corresponds to the third current;
- wherein the third transistor and the fourth transistor are for outputting the gain controlling voltage.

- 15 Claim 10. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 9, wherein the value of the second bias current is substantially the same as the value of the third current, and the value of the current of the third transistor is substantially the same as the value of the fourth current.

- 20 Claim 11. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 4, wherein the current transforming unit comprises a current mirror circuit.

Claim 12. (original) The variable gain amplifier of claim 4, wherein the current transforming unit comprises:

- 25 a first current transforming unit, comprising:
- a fifth transistor having a first end being coupled to a second end;
  - a sixth transistor;
  - a third bias current source coupled to a third end of the fifth transistor and the

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

- sixth transistor for providing a third bias current; and  
a fourth current source coupled to the fifth transistor and the transconductance unit; and  
a second current transforming unit comprising:
- 5 a seventh transistor having a first end and a second end being coupled to the sixth transistor for outputting the third current;  
an eighth transistor coupled to the fifth transistor for outputting the fourth current; and  
a fourth bias current source coupled to the seventh transistor and the eighth  
10 transistor for providing a fourth bias current.

- Claim 13. (new) A variable gain amplifier, comprising:  
an amplifying stage for generating an output voltage according to an input voltage;  
and  
15 a gain controlling stage for outputting a gain controlling voltage to determine a voltage gain of the amplifying stage according to a first controlling voltage V1 and a second controlling voltage V2, such that the voltage gain changes linearly in decibel in response to the difference between the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage.

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- Claim 14. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 13, wherein the voltage gain is inversely proportional to an equation expressed as  $k_1 \exp[k_2(V_1 - V_2)]$ ; in which both  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are substantial constants.

- 25 Claim 15. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 13, wherein the gain controlling stage comprises:  
a transconductance unit for generating a first current and a second current according to the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage,

Appl. No. 10/709,198

Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

wherein the ratio between the first current and the second current is determined by the difference between the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage;

5 a current transforming unit coupled to the transconductance unit for generating a third current corresponding to the first current, and a fourth current corresponding to the second current; and

an outputting unit coupled to the current transforming unit for generating the gain controlling voltage according to the third current and the fourth current;

10 wherein the value of the gain controlling voltage is determined by the difference between the first controlling voltage and the second controlling voltage.

Claim 16. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 15, wherein the relationship between the first current, the second current, the first controlling voltage, and the second controlling voltage is:  $I_1 / I_2 = \exp(K \times (V_1 - V_2))$ ; where  $I_1$  is the first  
15 current,  $I_2$  is the second current,  $K$  is a substantial constant,  $V_1$  is the first controlling voltage, and  $V_2$  is the second controlling voltage.

Claim 17. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 16, wherein the value of the third current is substantially the same as that of the first current, and the value of the  
20 fourth current is substantially the same as that of the second current.

Claim 18. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 16, wherein the gain controlling voltage is proportional to  $\ln(I_1/I_2 - K_3)$  and  $K_3$  is a constant.

25 Claim 19. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 15, wherein the transconductance unit comprises:  
a first transistor coupled to the first controlling voltage;  
a second transistor coupled to the second controlling voltage; and

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

a first bias current source coupled to the first transistor and the second transistor for providing a first bias current;

wherein the first transistor outputs the first current according to the first controlling voltage and the first bias current, and the second transistor outputs the second current according to the second controlling voltage and the first bias current.

Claim 20. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 15, wherein the outputting unit comprises:

a third transistor, wherein the current of the third transistor corresponds to the fourth current;

a fourth transistor; and

a second bias current source coupled to the third transistor and the fourth transistor for providing a second bias current, wherein the second bias current corresponds to the third current;

wherein the third transistor and the fourth transistor are for outputting the gain controlling voltage.

Claim 21. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 20, wherein the value of the second bias current is substantially the same as the value of the third current, and the value of the current of the third transistor is substantially the same as the value of the fourth current.

Claim 22. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 15, wherein the current transforming unit comprises a current mirror circuit.

Claim 23. (new) The variable gain amplifier of claim 15, wherein the current transforming unit comprises:

a first current transforming unit, comprising:

Appl. No. 10/709,198  
Amdt. Dated Sept. 01, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

- a fifth transistor having a first end being coupled to a second end;
- a sixth transistor;
- a third bias current source coupled to a third end of the fifth transistor and the sixth transistor for providing a third bias current; and
- 5 a fourth current source coupled to the fifth transistor and the transconductance unit; and
- a second current transforming unit comprising:
  - a seventh transistor having a first end and a second end being coupled to the sixth transistor for outputting the third current;
  - 10 an eighth transistor coupled to the fifth transistor for outputting the fourth current; and
  - a fourth bias current source coupled to the seventh transistor and the eighth transistor for providing a fourth bias current.

15